

Improving Law Enforcement and Corrections

A substantial part of NIJ's research and development activity has always been devoted to finding ways that law enforcement and corrections officers can do their jobs better, more safely, and more efficiently.

Helping police train

In 2003, NIJ awarded \$1 million to the Institute for Law and Justice and Eastern Kentucky University to produce a training evaluation model and related products that can guide evaluation of justice training activities supported by Federal, State, and local funds. This flexible tool kit will help justice agencies achieve more consistency and control over the training they fund and help grant recipients use their training funds more effectively.

Helping police cope

NIJ developed an innovative new research initiative in 2003 aimed at identifying ways to improve police officer performance, health, safety, and quality of family life. The research is examining human factors such as shift work, long work hours, and ways to improve the interface between emerging technologies and the officers who will use them. The first set of projects builds on previous work NIJ sponsored on police fatigue. These projects are being developed in concert with researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Bureau of Labor

Statistics, and Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, as well as private and academic researchers who are studying ways to reduce the impact of long and irregular work hours on American workers. Because of NIJ's leadership, police work-hour research may provide a model for many other occupational groups in the future.

Fighting rural theft

A grant of more than \$400,000 was awarded in 2003 to the Urban Institute to evaluate the Agricultural Crime Technology Information and Operation Network in California's San Joaquin Valley. This program uses novel technologies to prevent losses from thefts of agricultural equipment and goods, which currently cost farmers and ranchers tens of millions of dollars each year. The study will (1) assess the impact, cost-benefits, and transferability of the program by collecting data in the intervention sites (as well as in comparison counties);

The Anchorage Daily News reported on August 10, 2003, that Juneau would be the first town in Alaska to test Segways, the self-balancing scooters, for police work as part of an NIJ pilot program to determine the Segway's suitability for law enforcement. The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Center—Northwest, in Anchorage, provided three Segways for Alaska State troopers to try out at no cost. *From <http://www.newsobserver.com>*

(2) analyze two victimization surveys; and (3) conduct interviews with victims and law enforcement authorities.

Improving the use of eyewitness evidence

Eyewitness evidence is often essential in identifying, charging, and ultimately convicting perpetrators, but cases are stronger if the evidence is obtained by law enforcement officers accurately and reliably. In 2003, NIJ published *Eyewitness Evidence: A Trainer's Manual for Law Enforcement* to be used in creating and teaching courses on eyewitness evidence, with particular emphasis on interviewing witnesses and conducting lineups. The manual provides instructors with sample lesson plans, explanations grounded in research, and multimedia presentations that supplement key points in the training curriculum. The manual was developed by a panel of law enforcement practitioners, psychology researchers, prosecutors, and defense lawyers. The sample lesson plans and materials included in the manual were pilot tested by police training instructors in an authentic class-

room environment. The manual is designed as a trainer's companion to the NIJ publication *Eyewitness Evidence: A Guide for Law Enforcement*.

For more information:

- *Eyewitness Evidence: A Guide for Law Enforcement*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, October 1999 (NCJ 178240), <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/178240.htm>.
- *Eyewitness Evidence: A Trainer's Manual for Law Enforcement*, Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, September 2003 (NCJ 188678), <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/eyewitness/188678.html>.

Reentry of offenders into society

With 600,000 inmates released from prisons each year, reentry programs are crucial to help reduce the rate of recidivism and ensure the safety of the community. Policymakers increasingly need research on effective reentry programs, particularly those that aid ex-prisoners during the first year after release when they are most likely to commit new crimes.

The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) is a Justice Department program administered by the Office of Justice Programs aimed at serious, high-risk offenders (both juveniles and adults). Through SVORI, State and local agencies get help from Federal partners to support all the components of a comprehensive reentry program.

A September 2, 2003, column in the *Oregonian* on the ineffectiveness of correctional boot camps cited NIJ's *Correctional Boot Camps: Lessons From a Decade of Research*. Looking back to the first half of the 20th century, when judges prescribed military service for young offenders and the public viewed this as a miracle cure, the author cites NIJ's finding that boot camps do not reduce recidivism. *From* <http://www.OregonLive.com>

In 2003, NIJ awarded \$1.9 million to RTI International, in collaboration with the Urban Institute, for a 5-year multisite project to assess the impact of SVORI. The evaluation project includes a 1-year implementation phase in which practitioners serve a prominent role in the planning and design of the study, followed by a 4-year impact assessment and cost-benefit analysis. Over the course of the project, data will be collected from prisoners, program administrators and staff, and official records. Data collected on recidivism will include technical violations, reoffending, rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration. The research will test the extent to which (1) the initiative leads to more coordinated planning and integrated services among partner agencies, (2) reentry participants receive more individualized and comprehensive services than comparison subjects, (3) reentry participants demonstrate better outcomes than comparison subjects, and (4) the benefits derived from reentry programs exceed the costs.

For more information:

- Additional information on the evaluation can be found at <http://www.svori-evaluation.org>.
- A description of OJP's reentry activities can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry>.

Policing research: Past, present, and future

NIJ, along with the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, commissioned a comprehensive review and assessment of all policing research conducted since

1968, the year of the passage of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, which created NIJ. The resulting report, produced by the National Research Council and released in 2003, found a remarkable transformation in the openness to innovation and evaluation among the law enforcement community. The report presents a series of recommendations for police, lawmakers, and communities that seek to build on that openness and improve policing even more in the 21st century.

For more information:

- The final report from the National Research Council, *Fairness and Effectiveness in Policing: The Evidence* is available online at the National Academies Press Web site at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309084334/html>.

Workshop on extortion

NIJ convened a 1-day workshop entitled "The Enduring Problem of Extortion: A Practical Assessment of Causes and Interventions." The workshop brought together expert researchers, investigators, and prosecutors for a discussion of U.S. and international extortion incidents, differing perspectives on the problem, and the local conditions that surround extortion's occurrence. Much of the discussion focused on individual cases and studies in terms of victims, offenders, circumstances, and responses. NIJ used the findings to develop a targeted research agenda that will advance knowledge and provide practical tools for enhancing investigations, prosecutions, and prevention efforts.

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Responding to illegal drugs

The Federal Government monitors illegal drug use in America in several ways. The Drug Abuse Warning Network, for example, gathers data from medical examiners and emergency rooms. Monitoring the Future is a national survey of drug use among school-aged youth. NIJ's Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program collects information about drug abuse from people who are arrested.

ADAM data tell local and regional policymakers what specific drugs arrestees are using so policymakers can better tailor their crime programs and policies as well as their drug prevention and treatment programs and policies. In 2003, 35 sites across the United States were exploring their community's drug-crime challenges using ADAM. Drug use varies widely by region and locality, although in 2003 marijuana continued to be the drug of choice for the majority of arrestees.

Several sites enhanced their understanding of the issues by also asking arrestees about their use of firearms, their access to social services, their experiences with domestic violence, and HIV

testing practices. Also in 2003, NIJ began a thorough review of its drugs and crime research portfolio; a major revamping is underway.¹

ADAM collects data through interviews and urinalysis. Urinalysis is fast and highly reliable. But collecting the specimen can feel invasive to both the person providing the specimen and the person monitoring the collection, so NIJ continues to investigate other ways to determine illegal drug use, specifically by analyzing sweat and saliva. Ongoing studies show promise, but further research and development are needed for these alternatives to be as accurate, comprehensive, inexpensive, and easy to analyze as urine.

For more information:

- Information about the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program and NIJ's drugs and crime research activities can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/adam>.

Evaluating drug courts

Do drug courts reduce recidivism? Do they reduce drug use? And if so, by how much? Answers to

¹ In early 2004, NIJ stopped work on the ADAM program data collection effort. This action was taken in response to a significant reduction in the congressional appropriation to NIJ in fiscal year 2004 for social science research. Although the President's budget requested sufficient funds to continue the ADAM program in fiscal year 2004, the appropriations bill that Congress passed did not appropriate the funds the President requested. In response to requests from Federal policymakers for a national estimate of drug use by persons arrested for crimes, preliminary planning has begun to replace the ADAM program with a data collection system that will provide this estimate. This new program would involve approximately 25 "core sites" where data would be collected not only to contribute to a national estimate of arrestee drug use but also to help inform local policymakers and law enforcement officials as to the nature and extent of drug use by persons committing crimes in their areas. A sufficient number of additional sites will be selected to ensure that the system provides a national estimate of drug use by persons who commit crimes. The system will build on much of the knowledge gained through the ADAM program and will benefit both national-level policymakers as well as local officials in the 25 core sites.

these and other basic questions about the effectiveness of drug courts are the goal of the National Drug Court Evaluation. In 2003, NIJ awarded \$570,000 for phase I of a longitudinal study of the impact of drug courts.

During phase I, the project partners (the Urban Institute, RTI

International, and the Center for Court Innovation) conducted a survey of drug courts and began selecting test and comparison courts. The planning in the first phase will lay the groundwork for a methodologically sound approach for future phases.